

Abstract

THE MILITARY SHARING AS AN ASEAN STRATEGY TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN INDONESIA

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This paper offers insights into how ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) tackle global issues of terrorism within the international system. The global war on terrorism, to a certain degree, has influenced the ASEAN leaders to securitize terrorism as a critical threat to ASEAN. However, it's difficult to separate Indonesia and ASEAN in countering terrorism because as ASEAN member states are always together with other ASEAN states in maintaining peace and stability in the region and together in overcoming the problem of incorporating nontraditional issues. The ASEAN's assistance to Indonesia in fighting terrorism in the country, such as, military sharing. The organization of terrorists transferred money, weapons, information and personnel across border with ease. Trans border organization terrorist activities indicated a border security was too weak. Therefore, the situation stressed the importance of multinational intelligence-sharing. By using these strategies, we attempt to examine to what extent the ASEAN strategies are more promising.

Key Words: ASEAN, Countering Terrorism, Military Sharing, Strategy.

1.Introduction

Southeast Asia was becoming international terrorist hub following the Bali bombings in October 2002 that killed 202 people. Therefore, in fighting the international terrorist, the ASEAN countries need to collaboration each other, settle their differences especially security sector. As terrorism pose a major threat to ASEAN's society, for the first effort, Indonesia and other

ASEAN members have adopted joint declarations on counter terrorism as an important platform. Then, they have worked together to hold capacity-building activities in fighting terrorism.

2. Development Assistance from ASEAN to Indonesia

Indonesia and ASEAN members have worked together in fighting terrorism since in November 2001 in accordance with the 2001 ASEAN declaration. For examples, Prime Minister GohChok Tong from Singapore said that his country has supported the USA's GWOT, Mahatir as a prime minister from Singapore issued a statement condemning the terrorist attacks. Following 9/11 attacks, President Megawati visited USA to support United States in countering terrorism (Chow, 2005).Following the 2002 Bali bombings, Indonesia and ASEAN states issued declaration in the Eight ASEAN Summit in November 2002. The declaration has supported the action in countering terrorism in the region (ASEAN Secretariat 2002d).The Indonesian President Megawati states:

the September 11 attacks on the United States, last October's Bali bombing, and the deadly car bombing in Jakarta on Tuesday have shown that regional plans of action to tackle terrorism and cross-border crimes like drug smuggling are inadequate....It became clear that no single country or group of countries could overcome this threat alone. In Indonesia's view, which is shared by the rest of the ASEAN members, it would take a global coalition involving all nations, all societies, religions and cultures to defeat this threat (New Age International: 2002).

This section discusses the ASEAN's assistance to Indonesia in fighting terrorism in the country. However, it's difficult to separate Indonesia and ASEAN in countering terrorism because as ASEAN member states are always together with other ASEAN states in countering terrorism to maintain peace and stability. The importance of the strategy in combating terrorism needs further elaboration.

3. Military Sharing

The organization of terrorists transferred money, weapons, information and personnel across border with ease. Trans border organization terrorist activities indicated a border security was too weak. Therefore, the situation stressed the importance of multinational intelligence-sharing and extradition agreements. Furthermore, Indonesia and other ASEAN members highlighted a regional Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, especially information exchange, such as intelligence information, modus operandi, and serious or minor offences by the terrorist organizations. Indonesia and other ASEAN governments also cooperate to prevent trafficking in small arms that was suspected that trafficking in small arms had been brought into the organization terrorist activities.

Based on the 2001 ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism (ASEAN, 2001a), Indonesia and other ASEAN countries have shared information and have exchanged intelligence in facilitating the information about the terrorist activities including the movement and funding of organization terrorist. This action aims to secure all modes of travel and to protect lives and property of people against attack of terrorist. In investigating, detecting, monitoring and reporting on terrorist acts, the Indonesian government has cooperated with other ASEAN members in enhancing their military capabilities to develop regional capacity building programmes.

ASEAN focal points on counter-terrorism were set up by Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to carry out several activities related to military sharing, for example, training military programmes especially for law enforcement authorities were asked to participate in psychological operation or psychological warfare courses; they have managed to procure intelligent equipment; they have also arranged courses to detect a bomb because early detection of bomb or explosive is vitally important; Indonesian and other ASEAN members police investigated post-blast to find out the truth; to secure airport; and regular inspections on passport or important documents were also carried out by them. Meanwhile, Indonesia and other ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) members established the ARF Inter-session Meeting on Counter-

terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM-CTTC) in Sabah in March 2003. This program has developed military cooperation to secure transportation on the road, the air and the sea and it has focused on the movement of people and goods, and document security.

Furthermore, under the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), Indonesian government and other ASEAN members have shared military to facilitate political and security cooperation particularly in countering terrorism in ASEAN region. Multilateral cooperation in the defense field was approved at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Cebu, the Philippines in January 2007. According to the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action in 2004 that the ASC has six programmes, namely, 1) developing political of ASEAN members, 2) shaping and sharing of ASEAN countries norms, 3) preventing conflict in ASEAN region, 4) giving a resolution to the conflict, 5) trying to create peace post-conflict, and 6) implementing the ASC agreement. As the main advocate of the ASC, Indonesia highlights cooperation between members to ensure peace in the region. The other ASC members also have motivated Indonesia to counter terrorism in the country with sharing military for example, information-sharing; enhancing cooperation between security agencies and intelligences to secure border and immigration control; and

improving intelligence sharing to freeze terrorist groups' assets among national police forces.

In August 2002, Indonesia and other ASEAN immigration authorities have enhanced coordination at border to prevent the movement of terrorists by set up intelligence units and ASEAN focal point directory as noted above to exchange information. Indonesian and other ASEAN polices and law enforcement officials established an anti-terrorism task force, called ASEAN Collaboration on Post Terrorist Attack in June 2003 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to help ASEAN members after a terrorist attack to identify, pursue, and apprehend suspects, examine witnesses, search the facts, signs or objects that make something is true, and treat a person who has been attacked, injured or killed as the result of terrorist attacks. In 2004, there was a regional ministerial meeting in Bali (ASEAN Secretariat 2004d) to deal with counterterrorism. This meeting aimed to enhance cooperation involving the police and military in improving maritime security and preventing of terrorist funding.

The results of cooperation between Indonesia and other ASEAN members such as, many of the suspects of terrorist were arrested by the ASEAN polices such as, FathurRohmanalGhozi was arrested by the Philippine National Police on January 15, 2002 . He comes from Indonesia and took an

active part in Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) organization. Based on instruction from al Qaeda's Afghan bases, he trained JI members in making bomb at Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) camps in Mindanao, Philippine; based on information from Singapore and Malaysia, the Indonesian police arrested AgusDwikarna, TamsilLinrung, and Abdul Jamal Belfas who had cooperation with al-Ghozi and had bomb making ingredients in their suitcase in March 2002; in February 2003, Mas SelamatKastari as a JI leader in Singapore was arrested in the Indonesian Riau islands; in August 2003, the JI operational chief, Hambali caught by the Thai police; in early 2008, two senior JI were caught in Kuala Lumpur by Malaysian police; in September 2009, the police shot a key JI organizer, NoordinMohamad Top; in February 2010, a training camp in Aceh was disrupted by the Indonesian police. This camp set up by Dulmatin who joined in JI organization in Philippine and was implicated in the 2002 Bali bombings. Finally, since 2002 until 2010, more than 300 suspected terrorists were caught.

4. Conclusion

This paper emphasizes the relevance of ASEAN in countering terrorism in the region especially in Indonesia. ASEAN as an association help Indonesia to combat terrorism through military sharing. ASEAN members and Indonesia

have done efforts in fighting terrorism and have much success in arresting the suspect of terrorists.

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